

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PT, ID

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE TIMOR

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER (DATED 27 JANUARY 1976)
ADDRESSED TO PRESIDENT OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND CIRCULATED
TO UNSC MEMBERS FROM DAVID SCOTT ON BEHALF OF FRETELIN
FOREIGN MINISTER JOSE RAMOS HORTA REGARDING VISIT OF UNSYG
SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI TO DILI.

QUOTE:

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF JOSE RAMOS HORTA, MINISTER FOR
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INFORMATION WHO IS AT PRESENT OVERSEAS,
TO ADVISE YOU OF RECENT EVENTS IN AUSTRALIA THAT MAY
JEOPARDISE THE MISSION OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL TO EAST TIMOR AS REQUESTED BY THE SECURITY
COUNCIL.

AFTER TALKS IN JAKARTA MR. WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI VISITED DILI
IN EAST TIMOR ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY OF LAST WEEK FOR MEETINGS
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WITH INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVES AND THE LEADERS OF MINORITY

PARTIES.

THIS OFFICE IN NEW YORK WAS ASKED TO REQUEST LEADERS OF FRETILIN AND THE EAST TIMOR GOVERNMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO NOMINATE A PLACE AND TIME FOR A MEETING WITH MR. GUICCIARDI. UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR THE INFORMATION BE CONVEYED TO MR. GUICCIARDI IN TIME FOR HIM TO MEET AT THE APPOINTED PLACE AND TIME.

MR. GUICCIARDI RETURNED TO JAKARTA AND AT OUR SUGGESTION MADE DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE FRETILIN RADIO IN DARWIN TO FACILITATE MAKING ARRANGEMENT FOR A MEETING WITH FRETILIN LEADERS. THIS RADIO HAS BEEN THE ONLY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN FRETILIN, THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD SINCE THE INDONESIAN INVASION ON DECEMBER 7, 1975.

MR. GUICCIARDI MADE IT KNOWN PUBLICLY IN AUSTRALIA THAT HE WAS MAKING CONTACT THROUGH THE DARWIN RADIO. HE STATED THAT HE HAD CHARTERED A CIVILIAN AIRCRAFT IN JAKARTA, THAT IT WOULD CARRY UNITED NATIONS EMBLEMS AND BE MANNED BY AN INDONESIAN CIVILIAN CREW. HE ASKED THAT A MESSAGE BE SENT TO FRETILIN ARRANGING A PLACE AND TIME OF MEETING AND REQUESTING A GUARANTEE OF SAFETY FOR THE INDONESIAN AIR CREW.

AT 2 A.M. SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, (NEW YORK TIME) I RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIA THAT AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH POLICE HAD SEIZED THE RADIO IN DARWIN. THE TECHNICAL REASON GIVEN FOR THE SEIZURE WAS THAT THE OPERATOR WAS NOT LICENSED. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THE RADIO HAD BEEN OPERATING WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SINCE DECEMBER 7, 1975.

ACCORDING TO AN AUSTRALIAN BROADCASTING COMMISSION REPORT RECEIVED IN NEW YORK THIS MORNING, MR. GUICCIARDI HAS STATED IN JAKARTA THAT THE SEIZURE OF THE RADIO BY THE AUSTRALIAN POLICE MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR HIM TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF FRETILIN AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR.

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ON RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF THE SEIZURE OF THE FRETILIN RADIO I SENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO MR. K. WALDHEIM, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AT 3 A.M. NEW YORK TIME, SUNDAY, JANUARY 25.

"REPORT RECEIVED FROM DARWIN AUSTRALIA THAT AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH POLICE SEIZED RADIO IN DARWIN WHILE IT WAS

COMMUNICATING WITH FRETILIN LEADERS IN EAST TIMOR AT
MR. GUICCIARDI'S REQUEST AND CONCERNING HIS VISIT STOP
URGENTLY REQUEST THAT YOU CONFIRM THIS REPORT, PROTEST
MOST STRONGLY TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AND ASK IT
TO CO-OPERATE TO ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S
MISSION STOP THIS DEPENDS ON HIS MEETING WITH FRETILIN
AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS REPRESENTING GREAT MAJORITY OF
PEOPLE OF EAST TIMOR STOP

- DAVID SCOTT, REPRESENTING JOSE RAMOS HORTA, MINISTER
FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INFORMATION. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF EAST TIMOR.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE ASK THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL REQUEST THE
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT THE RESTORATION OF THE RADIO
LINK BETWEEN DARWIN AND EAST TIMOR AND CO-OPERATE TO THE
FULLEST EXTENT TO ENSURE THAT THE SUCCESS OF MR. GUICCIARDI'S
MISSION IS NOT JEOPARDISED BY HIS INABILITY TO MAKE CONTACT
AND TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH FRETILIN AND THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF EAST TIMOR WHICH REPRESENT THE
GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE.

YOURS RESPECTFULLY,

DAVID SCOTT, FOR JOSE RAMOS HORTA, MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL
RELATIONS AND INFORMATION.

UNQUOTE.

2. COMMENT: LETTERHEAD READS "DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF EAST TIMOR, 310 EAST 44TH STREET, APT 608, NEW YORK, NY
10017. TELEPHONE: 212-697-4984, MESSAGES TO 212-682-3633".
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